IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claim 15 without prejudice or disclaimer, and AMEND claims 1, 11, 20, and 21 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) An information collecting apparatus comprising:

a network connecting unit which connects to a network;

an event collecting destination site registering unit which registers event collecting destination sites for detecting the presence or absence of an event which occurred on the network or in the real world;

an information collecting destination site registering unit which registers information collecting destination sites for collecting documents including data comprising text, image, audio sound, or a combination thereof;

an event detecting unit which obtains information from said registered event collecting destination sites and detects the presence or absence of the occurrence of the event from the presence or absence of an updating area of the obtained information;

a keyword extracting unit which extracts one or more keywords from the updating area in response to the updating area being detected by said event detecting unit;

an information searching unit which searches the documents in said registered information collecting destination sites ~~for a predetermined period of time~~ by using the keyword extracted by said keyword extracting unit; and

an information notifying unit which notifies the user of a search result of said information searching unit;

wherein said information searching unit, after said event detecting unit detects occurrence of an event, searches documents in said registered information collecting destination site periodically for a predetermined period of time by using the keywords extracted by said keyword extracting unit.

2. (previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said event

detecting unit accesses said event collecting destination site, downloads the document in said site, stores it as a reference, thereafter, detects the presence or absence of the event occurrence from the presence or absence of the update by comparing the document downloaded from said event collecting destination site with said reference, and updates said reference by using said downloaded document.

3. (previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said information searching unit accesses said information collecting destination site, downloads the document in said site, and searches a corresponding document portion by using said keyword from the downloaded document.

4. (previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a document storing unit which stores the document obtained from said information collecting destination site by said information searching unit.

5. (cancelled)

6. (previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein

said event collecting destination site registering unit obtains the event collecting destination site from an event collecting destination list server via the network and registers it, and

said information collecting destination site registering unit obtains the information collecting destination site from an information collecting destination list server via the network and registers it.

7. (previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein

said event collecting destination site registering unit obtains event collecting destination sites from another information collecting apparatus having the same construction via the network and registers them, and

said information collecting destination site registering unit obtains information collecting destination sites from the information collecting apparatus having the same construction via the network and registers them.

8. (previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said keyword extracting unit morpheme-analyzes the updating area detected by said event detecting unit, divides it every part of speech, thereafter, extracts only proper nouns, and if the extracted nouns are different from existing keywords registered in a keyword database, outputs the extracted proper nouns as keywords to said information searching unit.

9. (previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein if only new information has been added to the updating area of the event collecting destination site in which the event occurrence has been detected, said event detecting unit stores a history of said new information, and if old information was deleted simultaneously with the addition of the new information to said updating area, said event detecting unit stores the history of said new information and a history of said deleted information and said information notifying unit is enabled to notify the user of the stored histories.

10. (previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein if only new information has been added to the updating area of the event collecting destination site in which the event occurrence has been detected, said event detecting unit stores the keyword extracted by said keyword extracting unit as a history of said new information, and if old information was deleted simultaneously with the addition of the new information to said updating area, said event detecting unit stores the keyword extracted by said keyword extracting unit as a history of said new information and a history of said deleted information and said information notifying unit is enabled to notify the user of said keyword as stored histories.

11. (currently amended) An information collecting method comprising:

an event collecting destination site registering step wherein event collecting destination sites for detecting the presence or absence of an event occurring on a network or in the real world are registered by an event collecting destination site registering unit;

an information collecting destination site registering step wherein information collecting destination sites for collecting documents including data comprising text, image, audio sound, or a combination thereof, are registered by an information collecting destination site registering unit;

an event detecting step wherein information is obtained from said registered event collecting destination sites and the presence or absence of event occurrence is detected by an

event detecting unit on the basis of the presence or absence of an updating area of the obtained information;

a keyword extracting step wherein one or more keywords are extracted by a keyword extracting unit from the updating area in response to the updating area being detected in said event detecting step;

an information searching step wherein the documents in said registered information collecting destination sites ~~for a predetermined period of time~~ are searched by an information searching unit by using the keyword extracted in said keyword extracting step; and

an information notifying step wherein the user is notified of a search result of said information searching step by an information notifying ~~unit~~step;

wherein in said information searching step, the number of searching times of the document search using said keyword is counted, and if the number of searching times of the document after the lapse of a predetermined time exceeds a predetermined threshold value, the information search of the document by said keyword is again continued for a predetermined period of time, and if the number of searching times is equal to or less than said threshold value, the information search of the document by said keyword is stopped.

12. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 11, wherein in said event detecting step, said event collecting destination site is accessed, the document in said site is downloaded and stored as a reference, and thereafter, the presence or absence of the event occurrence is detected from the presence or absence of the update by comparing the document downloaded from said event collecting destination site with said reference.

13. (previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein in said information searching step, said information collecting destination site is accessed, the document in said site is downloaded, and a corresponding document portion is searched by using said keyword from the downloaded document.

14. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 11, further comprising a document storing step wherein the document obtained from said information collecting destination site by said information searching step is stored into a document storing unit.

15. (canceled)

16. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 11, wherein

in said event collecting destination site registering step, the event collecting destination site is obtained from an event collecting destination list server via the network and registered, and

in said information collecting destination site registering step, the information collecting destination site is obtained from an information collecting destination list server via the network and registered.

17. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 11, wherein

in said event collecting destination site registering step, event collecting destination sites are obtained from another information collecting apparatus having the same construction via the network and registered, and

in said information collecting destination site registering step, information collecting destination sites are obtained from the information collecting apparatus having the same construction via the network and registered.

18. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 11, wherein in said keyword extracting step, the updating area detected in said event detecting step is morpheme-analyzed and divided every part of speech, thereafter, only proper nouns are extracted, and if the extracted nouns are different from existing keywords registered in a keyword database, the extracted proper nouns are outputted as keywords to said information searching step.

19. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 11, wherein in said event detecting step, if only new information has been added to the updating area of the event collecting destination site in which the event occurrence has been detected, a history of said new information is stored, and if old information was deleted simultaneously with the addition of the new information to said updating area, the history of said new information and a history of said deleted information are stored and said information notifying unit is enabled to notify the user of the stored histories.

20. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 11, wherein in said event detecting step, if only new information has been added to the updating area of the event

collecting destination site in which the event occurrence has been detected, the keyword extracted in said keyword extracting step is stored as a history of said new information, and if old information was deleted simultaneously with the addition of the new information to said updating area, the keyword extracted by said keyword extracting ~~unit~~ step is stored as a history of said new information and a history of said deleted information and said information notifying unit is enabled to notify the user of said keyword as stored histories.

21. (currently amended) A computer readable medium having stored thereon a program for allowing a computer to execute:

an event collecting destination site registering step wherein event collecting destination sites for detecting the presence or absence of an event occurring on a network or in the real world are registered;

an information collecting destination site registering step wherein information collecting destination sites for collecting documents including data comprising text, image, audio sound, or a combination thereof, are registered;

an event detecting step wherein information is obtained from said registered event collecting destination sites and the presence or absence of event occurrence is detected on the basis of the presence or absence of an updating area of the obtained information;

a keyword extracting step wherein one or more keywords are extracted from the updating area in response to the updating area being detected in said event detecting step;

an information searching step wherein the documents in said registered information collecting destination sites ~~for a predetermined period of time~~ are searched by using the keyword extracted in said keyword extracting step; and

an information notifying step wherein the user is notified of a search result of said information searching step;

wherein, in said information searching step, the documents in said registered information collecting destination sites are periodically searched for a predetermined period of time by using the keyword extracted in said keyword extracting step.

22. (previously presented) The computer readable medium having stored thereon the program according to Claim 21, wherein said event detecting step, said event collecting destination site is accessed, the document in said site is downloaded and stored as a reference, and thereafter, the presence or absence of the event occurrence is detected from the presence

or absence of the update by comparing the document downloaded from said event collecting destination site with said reference.

23. (previously presented) The computer readable medium having stored thereon the program according to Claim 21, wherein in said information searching step, said information collecting destination site is accessed, the document in said site is downloaded, and a corresponding document portion is searched by using said keyword from the downloaded document.

24. (previously presented) The computer readable medium having stored thereon the program according to Claim 21, further comprising a document storing step wherein the document obtained from said information collecting destination site by said information searching step is stored into a document storing unit.

25. (cancelled)

26. (previously presented) The computer readable medium having stored thereon the program according to Claim 21, wherein

in said event collecting destination site registering step, the event collecting destination site is obtained from an event collecting destination list server via the network and registered, and

in said information collecting destination site registering step, the information collecting destination site is obtained from an information collecting destination list server via the network and registered.

27. (previously presented) The computer readable medium having stored thereon the program according to Claim 21, wherein

in said event collecting destination site registering step, event collecting destination sites are obtained from another information collecting apparatus having the same construction via the network and registered, and

in said information collecting destination site registering step, information collecting destination sites are obtained from the information collecting apparatus having the same construction via the network and registered.

28. (previously presented) The computer readable medium having stored thereon the program according to Claim 21, wherein in said keyword extracting step, the updating area detected in said event detecting step is morpheme-analyzed and divided every part of speech, thereafter, only proper nouns are extracted, and if the extracted nouns are different from existing keywords registered in a keyword database, the extracted proper nouns are outputted as keywords to said information searching step.

29. (previously presented) The computer readable medium having stored thereon the program according to Claim 21, wherein in said event detecting step, if only new information has been added to the updating area of the event collecting destination site in which the event occurrence has been detected, a history of said new information is stored, and if old information was deleted simultaneously with the addition of the new information to said updating area, the history of said new information and a history of said deleted information are stored and said information notifying unit is enabled to notify the user of the stored histories.

30. (previously presented) The computer readable medium having stored thereon the program according to Claim 21, wherein in said event detecting step, if only new information has been added to the updating area of the event collecting destination site in which the event occurrence has been detected, the keyword extracted in said keyword extracting step is stored as a history of said new information, and if old information was deleted simultaneously with the addition of the new information to said updating area, the keyword extracted in said keyword extracting step is stored as a history of said new information and a history of said deleted information and said information notifying unit is enabled to notify the user of said keyword as stored histories.

31. (cancelled)

32. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said information searching unit counts the number of searching times as an information search result using the keyword, and stops the search using the keyword when the predetermined period of time has elapsed and the number of said searching times is equal to or less than a threshold value.

33. (previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein said information searching step counts the number of searching times as an information search result using the keyword, and stops the search using the keyword when the predetermined period of time has elapsed and the number of said searching times is equal to or less than a threshold value.

34. (previously presented) The computer readable medium having stored thereon the program according to claim 21, wherein said information searching unit counts the number of searching times as an information search result using the keyword, and stops the search using the keyword when the predetermined period of time has elapsed and the number of said searching times is equal to or less than a threshold value.